

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
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P R 210519Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102162

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, EAIR

SUBJECT:SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN PARTICIPATION IN ANTI-
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HIJACKING CONTACT GROUP

REF: A) DOHA 516 (NOTAL); B) STATE 90969

1. REFTEL A REPORTS THAT QATAR IS WAITING TO SEE WHAT
SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT HAVE DONE REGARDING ANTI-HIJACKING
CONVENTIONS BEFORE DECIDING WHAT ACTION IT SHOULD TAKE.

WE BELIEVE THIS ILLUSTRATES A PROBLEM WHICH WE ANTICIPATED WOULD ARISE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, I.E., DEMARCHES FROM COUNTRIES IN THE REGION COULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE EFFECT, WHILE APPROACHES BY WESTERN COUNTRIES ALONE WILL HAVE LIMITED EFFECT IN ENCOURAGING ADHERENCE TO THE CONVENTIONS.

2. IN VIEW OF INITIAL INTEREST IN CONTACT GROUP SHOWN BY BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, WE BELIEVE ONE MORE EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO GET THEM TO MAKE DEMARCHES IN THE REGION. IRAN ATTENDED ALL MEETINGS OF CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK, BUT DID NOT OFFER TO APPROACH ANY STATES. SAUDI ARABIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, INDICATED AN EARLY INTEREST IN NEW YORK IN PARTICIPATING IN THE

CONTACT GROUP, BUT DID NOT ATTEND ANY OF ITS MEETINGS.

3. FOR BONN, THE HAGUE AND TOKYO: EMBASSIES SHOULD SEEK AGREEMENT OF HOST GOVERNMENTS TO ONE MORE JOINT APPROACH IN JIDDA AND TEHRAN IN ORDER TO SEEK THEIR AGREEMENT TO MAKING DEMARCHES IN COUNTRIES OF THE REGION WHERE THEY HAVE INFLUENCE. IF FOREIGN MINISTRIES AGREE TO JOINT APPROACH TO JIDDA AND TEHRAN, EMBASSIES SHOULD SUGGEST THAT DETAILS BE WORKED OUT BY RESPECTIVE MISSIONS TO THE UN AND THAT AGREED INSTRUCTIONS THEN BE SENT TO THE RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES.
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4. FOR USUN: MISSION SHOULD INFORM COUNTERPARTS OF OUR VIEWS AND THAT WE WILL RAISE THE MATTER IN BONN, THE HAGUE AND TOKYO.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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